IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claim as follows:

1-2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising preparing to receive a next packet from the physical layer after receiving the packet in which the error is detected.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein said storage memory comprises a FIFO (First-In, First-Out) memory.

5. - 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for processing, by an Ethernet MAC (Medium Access Control) layer, a packet received from a physical layer and intended, after reception, for storage in a storage memory at the MAC layer and transmission, after storage of the packet in said storage memory, to a layer above the MAC layer, the packet having a size, comprising:

detecting for error while receiving, at the MAC layer, said packet from the physical layer; and,

upon detection of error,

a) regardless of said size, preventing the storage, of said packet, in said storage memory at the MAC layer, thereby preventing said transmission to said layer above; and

b) sending, to said layer above, a signal indicating occurrence of error and a signal indicating an end of said packet.